

1. (Once Amended) An offshore structure comprising a base, a deck having two substantially parallel side edges, and a plurality of legs extending between the base and the deck, wherein the legs are attached to the base outboard of said side edges and a connection is provided between an inwardly facing face of each leg and the deck.

2. (Once Amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein each said leg comprises a vertically extending chord at each corner thereof.

3. (Once Amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein each said chord is circular in cross section.

4. (Twice Amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein each said leg is triangular.

5. (Twice Amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 2, wherein the connection between each said leg and the deck comprises a shear plate, having a top and a bottom, attached substantially vertically between the deck and a respective said chord.

6. (Once Amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 5, wherein the connection further comprises a stiffening plate extending through a diameter of the chord, wherein a first side edge of said shear plate is welded to said stiffening plate and said shear plate and said stiffening plate are substantially aligned.

9. (Twice Amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 5, wherein the connection further comprises a metal coupling plate, having inboard and outboard ends, attached horizontally between the deck and the chord.

14. (Twice Amended) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein the connection further comprises an additional coupling plate, said coupling plate and said additional coupling plate are provided at the top and the bottom of the shear plate respectively.

Kindly add new claims 39-43 as follows:

39. (New) An offshore structure comprising a base, a deck, and a plurality of lattice legs extending between the base and the deck, wherein the legs are arranged outboard of the deck and a connection is provided between an inwardly facing face of each said leg and the deck;

wherein each said leg comprises a vertically extending leg chord at each corner thereof;

wherein the connection between each said leg and the deck comprises a shear plate attached substantially vertically between the deck and a respective said leg chord; and

wherein the connection further comprises a stiffening plate extending through a diameter of the leg chord, wherein a first side edge of said shear plate is welded to said stiffening plate and said shear plate and said stiffening plate are substantially aligned.

40. (New) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 39, wherein the stiffening plate extends over a greater length of the leg chord than the shear plate.

41. (New) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 40, wherein the inboard end of said shear plate is welded between two plates extending outwardly from the deck edge.

42. (New) An offshore structure comprising a base, a deck, and a plurality of lattice legs extending between the base and the deck, wherein the legs are arranged outboard of the deck and a connection is provided between an inwardly facing face of each said leg and the deck;

wherein each said leg comprises a vertically extending leg chord at each corner thereof;

wherein the connection between each said leg and the deck comprises a shear plate attached substantially vertically between the deck and a respective said leg chord;

wherein the connection further comprises a metal coupling plate attached horizontally between the deck and the leg chord; and

wherein the coupling plate further includes a cut-out in an edge facing the leg chord, such that a part of the periphery of the leg chord is held within the cut-out.

43. (New) An offshore structure as claimed in claim 42, wherein the cut-out is elliptical in shape.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Kindly amend Figure 6 to include reference number 17 and to add an arrow to the leader for reference number 16, and amend Figure 13 to change reference number 64 to reference number 63 and add reference number 62.

REMARKS

In the office action, the Examiner notes that claims 1-38 are pending in the application with claims 17-36 and 38 being withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-16 and 37 currently stand rejected, although the Office Action Summary sheet does not identify claim 37 as being rejected. By this amendment, claims 17-38 are canceled,